MR. I. C. CHACKO: അയൽ പറയിൽനു തന്നെയാണ് ഇപ്പോഴും പ്രമേ.

Another subject about which so many members spoke was about the Chalakal thodu. We have spent so far only about Rs. 18,000. The present arrangement is that the private people are allowed to blast the rock from the line of the thodu and take it without any payment. When that has progressed to some extent, Government will take over and finish the remaining work. According to the present programme three to four years ago about 60,000 cubic feet of rock were blasted and removed. The remaining cost for completing this work is given as Rs. 50,000. But that was an estimate which was prepared several years back. If we are to undertake the work at this time it will cost at least three times that amount and that for about 3,000 running feet of canal. So, this is not the opportune time to take up the work.

The honourable member, Mr. E. P. Varughese referred to one or two works in the Shertallai taluk. He said that the Shertallai taluk has been neglected and sufficient work has not been carried out there. In the year 1116 we spent more than a lakh of rupees for Shertallai taluk alone and more than 20 to 25 miles of cart roads have been opened with necessary bridges. In 1117, about Rs. 60,000 have been spent for opening new roads in that taluk. The honourable member referred to the Beach Road from Shertallai to Mararikulam. For a road four miles long the expenditure estimated is Rs. 57,800. The Advisory Committee has not recommended that that work should be taken up either last year or this year. In fact, their recommendation was that in view of the high cost of materials it may wait for better times, and more urgent works were selected by them. The same is the case with the Arathinkal bridge. The estimated cost of this bridge is Rs. 5,150. For the same reason, the estimate is allowed to lie over. The other bridge belonging to a private party referred to is not strong enough for any vehicular traffic.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: The time for the Demand is over.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 55,03,560 under Demand VI—Public Woks Department including Water Works and Drainage—was put and carried.

The motion was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND VIII—ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 55,99,914 under Demand VIII—Electricity and Telephone.

Motion 105.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: Sir, I move "to reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,12,750 for direction by Rs. 10 to discuss local necessities." Sir, Attingal is the most important town between Trivandrum and Quilon. The main supply line from Pallivasal to Trivandrum runs

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through Attingal, Such being the case that town is not provided with electric lights whereas less important places like Kothamangalam and Kundara are given the benefit of electric lights. In the case of punja cultivation Paravoor is an important centre having large acreage under paddy cultivation. No arrangements have been made to provide proper pumping station there for dewatering the fields. With these words, I place the motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I second the motion. The importance of Attingal cannot be overstressed. It is a place annually visited by His Highness the Maharaja in full royal splendour because there is the temple ceremony to be performed. When the question of opening a telephone call office at Attingal was discussed in this House last year I was told by the Electrical Engineer that a telephone call office in Attingal would not be paying to the department. Immediately after that—I do not think even two months elapsed—a telephone call office was introduced there. I do not want to mention what necessitated it. But the same necessity may arise in this case also. So, I strongly support Mr. Varkala Madhavan on this cut motion and insist on the Electrical Department taking up the earliest steps possible to have electrical lights installed at least in the municipal town of Attingal.

MR. P. V. MATHAI CHEMPARATHY: Sir, I also support the motion. In doing so I wish to bring to the notice of the House the necessity for supplying electricity to Thodupuzha. Last year also I was making the very same demand. There are a number of estates there. They are repeating their request to me that this matter may be brought to the notice of the authorities concerned and that they are ready and willing to take the current. Especially during this time of scarcity of kerosene oil it will be a great benefit to the people there. I more or less anticipate the answer that will be given by the Electrical Engineer. I am fully aware that he has included in his programme of work the demands from the public of Thodupuzha. But we do not find any progress as yet. I hope that he will take into consideration the question of supplying current to Thodupuzha for developing many of the industries in that place. With these observations I support the motion.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I also wish to speak a few words on the motion. I support the motion. There is no meaning in the Electrical Department taking credit for providing electricity so long as they are not able to give power to such localities they can conveniently do. I quite understand the argument that it may be difficult now to get wires and other things necessary. But a sympathetic attitude must surely be shown embodied in a promise that as soon as conditions permit, this request will be granted and a serious attempt made to tackle the problem in all earnestness.

I wish also to emphasise another matter. I find that efficiency is carried on to such an extent by the subordinates of the Electrical Department in certain wrong directions. I raised the point last year and although I hoped a fair, reasonable and sympathetic answer from the Government member in charge, I was disappointed. There is certainly the law and the rules require the consumers to pay what is due

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[Sadasyatilaka T. K. Velu Pillai]

from them for the power. It is a mercantile concern. I can very well understand when we say that taxes should be realised in time. But at the same time I cannot understand the meaning of a double penalty. I am now speaking for the poor man and not the rich and the influential men who do not know what to do with their money. These poor people, because they live in the metropolis of the State, are obliged to avail themselves of the amenities provided by Government and in self-interest and in a spirit of imitation obliged to take electric lights for their houses. I can understand if a man who does not pay what is due from him in August pays it in September at an increased rate. I do not object to it, because business requires promptness in payment and the penalty of a higher rate is sufficient for that. But in addition to it I have seen a very unfortunate spectacle, a very hard and wrong spectacle—let it be due to perversion or indifference or carelessness or even remissness—of the soulless process of disconnection. Without a moment's notice at 5 or 6 o'clock in the evening a man comes with weapons of frightful character. This man disconnects the wire at a time when there are about 20 members in the house, at a time when on account of the supply of power by the Electrical Department people had done away with those "[illegible]", "[illegible]" etc., and proclaims darkness so that people will not be able to see. I hope the Head of the Electrical Department will bestow his special attention to this matter, though he has rendered very efficient service and also try to exercise decent powers. Are these electrical people and their menials invested with powers? If the High Court passes a decree and if A owes money to B and B, the decree holder in execution, wants the debtor to pay the amount he attaches his property. Even then if the money is not realised a warrent is issued. It is taken by a low-paid peon. He takes the warrant to the debtor and says "There is a warrant for you on a debt of Rs. 6000 So, if you have no money you are to be arrested". The sensible law of the Judicial Department allows that. But according to the Insensible law of the Electrical Department even if you are going to pay at an enhanced rate, you must suffer.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know whether any notice of demand is served?

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: Notices are issued and it requires very little comment. The Department is not run by people who know the law. Very few people know the law and others do not care to know the law. The serving of notice is often a fit and figment. I know at least 20 instances at which people complained to me about this. Sir, I am not saying this in any casual mood. I am saying this deliberately. I thought I have reviewed the position and my conviction still remains that these wonderful bill collectors of the Electrical Department should not use more arbitrary powers than peons of the Judicial Department. Our people will not run away with that money.

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After all, the amounts are very small and if there is a vigilant controlling by the Head Accountant in the office he will be able to see that there is no default. For non-payment two things must always combine, i.e., inability and unwillingness. Whatever be the case you cannot distinguish in a particular case whether it is unwillingness or inability. Let me appeal to the Government, let me appeal to the House on behalf of the poor people of this town, who along with others get only insufficient food after paying a number of cess and taxes and who have to live and extend hospitality to people who come from various parts of the State, to kindly see a way to accept the position.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: What are the suggestions?

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: I do not say that there shall not be disconnection under any circumstances. But I do say it firmly and do maintain that if a man is in arrears, if a disconnector goes over there and if the man who is in default pays the money due there, there must be a law or rule for the nefarious process of unnecessary disconnection. Proper disconnection can be done.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know from the honourable member whether it is not usual that not only the House would be left in darkness completely during the whole night but we have also to pay unnecessary expenses for reconnection?

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: Yes, Sir,

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: The honourable member in charge of the Electrical Department would agree with me that his department has not so far made itself useful to South Travancore. Regarding the south one suggestion that could be made is this: There is a chance of introducing electric trains between Trivandrum and Nagercoil by the power produced at Pallivasal. When the Dewan visited Kuzhithurai Municipality sometime ago there was a prayer from the Councillors of the locality that the Government should consider the possibility of supplying the Municipality with electricity. The Dewan gave a very favourable reply, but nothing has been done so far. I want to know whether any steps have been taken for the supply of electricity to the Municipalities at Kuzhithurai, Padmanabhapuram and Colachel.

Sir, Eraniel is a commercial place in South Travancore. For some time past the Department is being moved to open a public call office there.

The line to Muttom runs almost through Eraniel. A few yards of wire will solve the question. I wish to know from the Electrical Engineer whether anything can be done in this direction. That is all I have to say.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think before the discussion proceeds further it will be helpful if the Electrical Engineer informs the House about the possibilities of further extensions.

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RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: Sir, as I said last year, a ten-year programme for the extension of the hydro-electric supply to various centres has already been sanctioned by Government. Estimates to the extent of 9½ lakhs of Rupees have already received the administrative approval of Government. Most of these extensions are waiting execution for the arrival of materials. Due to restrictions imposed on shiping and manufacture of electric materials, it is not possible to get them without a license from the Government of India. Our orders for various materials and equipment which are pending from 1940-41 onwards have not yet been executed, and all the materials that we had stored previously have practically been used up for the current works. We have drawn the attention of the Government of India to the supreme necessity for giving priorities to our indents since such materials are required for works primarily in connection with food productions. Works in Attingal, Kottarakara and various places between Kundara and Trivandrum and also extensions from Trivandrum to Nagercoil, which would have been completed by 1944 in the normal courses, have to lie over.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know where Muvattupuzha comes in?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: This work may probably be taken up next year. In view of the fact that extensive areas for lift irrigation have been found feasible and any proposal for agricultural improvement generally receives the support of the Government of India I expect that such works will be executed soon.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether any extension work for food crops is proceeding in any part of Travancore under the Electrical Department?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: There is one work now in progress in Kodanad (North Travancore) primarily for lift irrigation. Extensions merely for lighting will not receive priority of the Government of India. The same remark applies to telephones. We have been going on with whatever stock we were able to collect. The extension of a telephone line to Eraniel from Muttom is not possible. The Muttom line is intended for defence purposes and it cannot be tapped. But some are proposed to be taken up next year and a provision of one and three-fourth lakhs is included in the next year's budget on the assumption that the materials that we had ordered 18 months ago will be released to us by the Government of India.

With regard to the supply of power from Papanasam, I may inform the House that the negotiations with the Madras Government have not yet been concluded. The reason why we had to negotiate for this additional power was that Pallivasal will not be capable of producing more power before 1945 when we may expect to have an additional generator installed. In the meantime, to augment our supply for industrial and agricultural purposes we have to go in for a temporary accomodation from Papanasam. This is intended primarily for such industries as aluminium and fertilisers.

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The extension of the main line to Nagercoil will have to wait until the extension of the 66 K. V. line from Kundara to Trivandrum is completed. The present 11 K. V. line which comes from Kundara to Trivandrum is fully loaded and transmission of additional power on that line is not possible.

With regard to the extension of power to Paravur for lift irrigation, I may state that the estimates are ready and the work will be included in the next years's programme. Due to the fact that these extensions are primarily for the production of food we may expect priority for the necessary materials for which we have placed our indents already.

With regard to the observations of Sadasyatilaka T. K. Velu Pillai—I have only to reiterate what I said last year. The department has to deal with over eight thousand consumers in the State. The procedure now followed is that invoices are sent to the consumers by the tenth of every month and the consumer is allowed time to pay the amount at the concession rate till the middle of the next month. And disconnection is resorted to only after giving one week's notice. From the way in which this system is followed so far, I do not think there is any real case for hardship.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I ask whether it will not be possible for the department to make known to occupants of the house that disconnection will be effected?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: I do not follow the question.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: When the Operator goes to a house for disconnection with all his horrible tools, is it not possible for him to mention to the inmates of the house that he had come for the purpose of disconnection? Will it not be possible to do this as is being done everywhere else?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: It is quite possible. As I said before, one week notice is always given to the consumer. Disconnection is of course an unpleasant duty.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: He can say that he has come for such and such a purpose either in Malayalam or in English.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: All these are besides the point when an official notice of disconnection is issued by the Department I should say, Sir, that the defaulters should try to improve their ways and pay up their dues promptly. Very recently the last date for the payment of invoices at the concessional rate has been extended to the 15th of the next month and this would give ample time for all consumers to pay promptly.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: What is the difficulty in collecting money and desisting from disconnection?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: Many of the employees are low-paid people and I do not propose to entrust revenue collection to them, as by doing so, defalcation and opportunities for corruption are likely to be created.

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MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I ask whether the people in his department are paid lower than the Munsiffs' court Process peons?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: I have no information about the employees of the Munsiffs' court.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: What was the complaint made by Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai? I did not hear him.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: For the reasons to which I have referred, I do not think that any case has been made for changing the existing procedure.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Is it not a case of "ഓങ്ങിച്ചായ് അടുക്കൊണ്ട് കടിക്കണം"?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: The fact that almost the whole of the payments due is being made every month would show that in almost all cases the consumers are business-like and they are taking advantage of the concessional rates offered.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether in cases of disconnection an additional sum of Rs. 5 has not to be paid for reconnection?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: The reconnection fees is only Rs. 2.

I believe I have covered all the points raised in the discussion and I would briefly sum up as follows:

We have budgetted for a very large programme of extension next year to cover various areas primarily to extend the scope of the supply for food production, such as, dewatering or pumping for lift irrigation and for industries like textiles, timber, chemicals etc. Indents for materials worth about 7 lakhs of rupees have already been placed and application for priorities have also been made. If the materials are received in time the proposed extensions will be carried out. But I cannot promise that extensions for merely lighting requirements will be undertaken. We have to remember in this connection that wiring materials are getting short. We are experiencing the same difficulty with regard to bulbs also. The Government of India propose to place restrictions on the import of bulbs, and we are not likely to get them readily hereafter. But, in connection with food production or anything directly connected with the war, we stand a reasonable chance of getting the full support of the Government of India as they have promised to give us priority for the importation of materials required for such purposes.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: ലിഫ്റ്റ് ഇറിഗേഷൻ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ആലുവായിൽനിന്നും അങ്കമാലിയിലേക്കും അവിടെ നിന്നും കാലടിയിലേക്കും ലയിൻ നീട്ടാൻ വല്ല ആലോചനയും ഉണ്ടോ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: Sir, that reminds me that I have to refuse the statement made by the honourable member in regard to lift irrigation viz., that the recommendations of the Lift IrrigationCommittee have not been carried out by my department.

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All recommendations in connection with the extension of electric supply for lift irrigation go before a special Committee appointed by Government for the purpose. Sanction for such extensions if they are supported by the committee is always accorded and in no single instance the recommendation made by the committee has not been accepted by Government. It is only a question of time before the whole area of Angamali will come under the scope of lift irrigation as investigations carried out by the special officer for lift irrigation show that such extensions are definitely encouraging.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKER: May I know whether there is any idea of extending for lighting purposes to Pandalam, Enadu and Adoor?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: As I have said before, the department cannot at present undertake on a extensions purely for the sake of lighting. If there is any prospect in Enad and Adoor, for utilising electric power to increase the production of food then such cases will be taken up and application will be made to the Government of India for priority assistance. But even then, only when the materials become available can the extension be taken up.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : സർ, വൈക്കം താലൂക്കിലേക്ക് ഇലക്ട്രിസിറ്റി ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ട കാര്യത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഫസ്റ്റ് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടപ്പോൾ ഫസ്റ്റ് ടെൻ ആകട്ടെയെന്നും, ഫസ്റ്റ് ടെൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടപ്പോൾ ഫസ്റ്റ് വൺ-ൽ ആകട്ടെയെന്നും ആണ് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സ്ഥിതിയനുസരിച്ചാൽ ഇപ്പോഴും വൈക്കത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ യാതൊരു തുകയും കൊള്ളിച്ച് കാണുന്നില്ലാ. അതു മറന്നുപോയതാണോയെന്ന് അറിഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: No Sir, that has not been forgotten. When I spoke of the supply of power to Kuttanad, Vaikom and Vechoor have been included in that scheme. Although supply for lighting purposes in Vaikom has been included in that programme, we have to keep that in abeyance. As I said before, the question of supply of power for lighting purposes will have to wait, but supply for agricultural purposes will always take precedence.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : പള്ളത്തുനിന്നും കുമരകംവഴി വൈക്കത്തേക്ക് ഇലക്ട്രിസിറ്റി കൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ പാടില്ലെ ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: That is exactly what I have said. For the extension to Vaikom *via* Kumarakom and Vechoor, we are waiting for the materials to arrive.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: It was said here that power was being obtained from the Papanasam works. Will it be possible to utilise that for South Travancore?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: As I have said before, the extension to the South will have to wait till the 66 K. V. extension from Kundara to Trivandrum is completed. The existing 11 K. V. line is already fully loaded. But if it can be proved that the

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[Rajyasevapravina K. P. Padmanabha Menon.]

supply of power for the areas further South from Trivandrum will increase food production, then we have a strong case for making an application to the Government of India for priority assistance. Such assistance can be expected only for increasing our food production or for new industrial activities which have a direct bearing on the war effort.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: With the existing power will it not be possible to supply for South Travancore?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: The necessity for extension has not been lost sight of. It is not because the department or the Government have not appreciated the necessity. We cannot get any material at present either from Great Britain or from anywhere else, unless we can satisfy the Government of India that such materials are required for the supply of power to increase the local food production.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I know some paddy fields which lie at a higher level than the water which is available nearer and which is required for the cultivation. There are certain paddy fields which depend entirely upon lift irrigation.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: Yes; Such cases have to be investigated, and will be included in the lift irrigation programme. We have drawn up such a scheme for Muvattupuzha and adjoining places and we have indented for the materials required for this extension. If on investigation it is possible to establish that the extension of power to further South of Trivandrum will bring in great areas under cultivation, then there is the possibility of getting priority for the materials required for extending the supply of such places.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: I wish to speak a few words on this subject. Sir, as the honourable member, the Electrical Engineer did not mention my constituency which extends from Aroor to Thottapally to a length of about 43 miles and breadth of 20 miles from Alleppey to Tiruvalla, I am forced to detail out certain facts.

Sir, I would first request the honourable member, the Electrical Engineer, to extend the supply to the rural parts of my constituency, Shertallai and Ambalapuzha. I am aware that it has been extended to the backwater paddy fields for an acreage of 15,000 paras of paddy fields.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: 15,000 acres.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: Yes, 15,000 acres. There is yet an extent of about a lakh of acres which also requires electric supply for the bailing out of water at the time of cultivation. Sir, it would be advantageous to the cultivators if it is extended at this time when they are not able to get engines or crude oil for the engines. It has also been found that the use of electric power is cheap. Therefore, if it is not possible to extend it at present as the Electrical Engineer has stated, due to the lack of materials, I would submit that the first thing, when the materials arrive or are available, should be to extend the electric supply for the paddy fields of Kuttanad. Sir, it may also

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be extended to the rural parts of Ambalapuzha, and Shertallai just for lighting purposes. According to the explanation of the Electric Engineer, that also may not be possible. Scarcity of Kerosene forces me to urge that the supply should be extended to rural parts for lighting purposes. If that is not possible, I would request the Electrical Engineer for a short extension of electric supply from Tiruvalla to Edathua—a distance of 6 miles. There is a road from Thiruvalla to Edathua. There is a large number of house owners who will take the current for lighting purposes. The Department will be getting a large income. With these observations, I also support the motion.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G PARAMESWARAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I desire to add a few words in regard to the policy of Government on the question of extension of supply of electric power. The House is of course, aware of the statement made by the Dewan-President, namely, that one of the main things that Government have before their eyes is to make each village a place fit to live in, so that each village might have its electric light and its radio set, and through the exercise of cheap power might develop cottage industries according to the regional requirements. And he further added: "That is why it has been the desire of this Government to extend the Pallivasal scheme." Now, as has been indicated by my friend, the Electrical Engineer, the difficulty is in regard to the supply and purchase of electrical appliances, materials and equipment necessary for extension of electric power. Apart from the difficulties that we have to encounter in getting priorities or the necessary licences required for getting down the machinery for the extension of the Pallivasal project, there is the further obstacle necessitated by the war situation. The Government of India exercise complete control over the supply of all electrical materials. We have to approach the Electrical Commissioner of the Government and satisfy him as to the necessity or the urgency of the schemes for which we require these materials. It has been definitely understood that no priority will be given except for these vital necessities, firstly, for war-effort, *i. e.*, those industries which directly contribute to the war effort, and secondly, for the maintenance of the life of the nation, or in other words, for food production. So far as lighting and other similar purposes are concerned, it has been categorically stated that not only should there be no further extensions for the duration of the war, but that even our present expenditure must be rigorously economised. We have, as a matter of war effort, fallen in line with this policy of the Government of India, and in fact, the Electrical Department has exercised the utmost economy in the matter of the utilization of power. As the citizens of Trivandrum might have noticed, the bulbs have been removed from every alternative post that you see here in Trivandrum. To the extent possible, we are saving electricity also. In certain places, electricity is being rationed, as honourable members might be well aware of. We have not yet gone to that stage and I hope it may not arise. Whatever that be, it is inevitable that, however much we might like it to be otherwise, extensions in the village areas or in

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[Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

urban areas or in court houses or public buildings will have to wait. But Government are most anxious, as honourable members themselves are, to see that as ample a provision as possible, in the circumstances, is made for the extension of the supply to areas such as Kuttanad, Kunnathunad and elsewhere for the purpose of enhancing the food production. Here again my friend, Mr. Narayana Kurup, deplored that we have been able to extend to the backwater areas electricity only for about 15,000 acres and that 1,00,000 of acres still remain. It is perfectly true. We have to try to see that electricity is supplied to that area also. In this connection, we have to consider two things, firstly, that electricity is very difficult to obtain, and secondly that even if we get electricity, it is extremely doubtful, for some time to come, that we will have the necessary motors. Therefore, to the extent possible we will do our utmost for giving power for food production.

Closely allied to food production, is the supply of power necessary for industries such as the production of fertilisers. The manufacture of synthetic manures is perhaps one of the most important industries so intimately connected with food production. It has been the endeavour of Government to find out the necessary quota that would enable us to push through those schemes. But the limitations of the Hydro-Electric project at Pallivasal had to be encountered and purely as a temporary expedient, the Madras Government have been approached for the purpose of making good at least 3000 K. W. Of course, we have asked for more and we would have to press for it and it would also be well if the Madras Government will see their way to grant us more. We have now negotiated for at least this 3000 K. W. which we hope to get. The necessary agreement has not yet been completed; yet we hope to get the 3000 K. W.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI: May I know whether we will be obliged to take current from Papanasam for a particular number of years?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: As I said these are all things which are programmed and based more or less on accurate forecast. But having regard to existing conditions, nobody can say when the seas will be free so that we might get all the machinery from abroad. It is common knowledge that all the machinery necessary for enlargement or expansion of the Pallivasal scheme has necessarily to come from abroad, and we hope that, within a certain period of time which we have forecast, they will be arriving here. But at the same time, the Madras Government have agreed for a certain period to supply us a certain quota of power; rather we hope they will agree finally to give us the quantity asked for. If we get that power, we shall be able not only to supply the deficiency in regard to industries which are directly contributing to the war effort to-day, such as the Aluminium industry, but we shall be able, side by side with it, to utilise such power for enhancing our food production. Without it, we feel that we shall be badly off. We have presented this matter in all

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its aspects before the Government of India and it is hoped that they will see their way to satisfy our requirements. It is therefore, my humible request to the honourable members of this House to realise that the situation is extremely difficult and beyond our control, if we are unable to expand the power scheme in the rural areas to a degree which the people press for.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Motion No. 107.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I move

"To reduce the allolment of Rs. 6,110 for Assistant Engineers by Re. 1".

The object of the motion is to discuss about the extreme hardship and inconvenience caused to the public in the matter of booking and transmission of phone messages due to unnecessary delay and neglect of the subordinates. It is clear therefore that there is no need for me to make a long speech. Sir, the Public of Chengannoor are indeed happy to find that Government have been pleased to open a public call office at Chengannoor. I was compelled to table this motion as a result of my own personal experience there and elsewhere. Whenever I had the necessity to go to the public call office at Chengannoor for making use of the phone service, my experience was most disappointing. I had to wait in the office for getting phone connection either with Trivandrum or Quilon for 4 or 5 hours together and this has become a nuisance, so to say; rather it is a waste of public time for us. I would request the Government and the Electrical Engineer to see that such difficulties and inconveniences to the public are removed at the earliest possible opportunity. With these words I commend my motion for the consideration of the House.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: In supporting the motion, I have to mention a similar disappointing experience which I had at the Parur public call office. About two weeks back, there was a devastating flood in Parur and the Government authorities in Trivandrum had to be informed of it. The refugees from the flooded suburbs flocked to the town and occupied the public buildings available and there was a general consternation. The poor refugees had to be fed and many relief measures had to be taken at once after getting instructions from the Government. It happened that the Municipal President, the Tahsildar and some other important gentlemen of the locality ran up to the public office attached to the Anchal office. I was also one among them. Both the President and the Tahsildar wanted to ring up the Chief Secretary and intimate the facts to him in all haste and seriousness. From 6·30 in the morning every attempt was made to phone to the Chief Secretary but he could not be reached as the telephone lines were said to be otherwise engaged. All of us waited in vain till about 9 in the morning to see the urgent message transmitted. At last we had to leave in the office a message in writing known as phonocom and attend to matters in our own way.

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MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Why was not the call characterised as 'emergent'

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: It was understood that something like urgent or emergent calls would be attended to first. Some others said that a Government call would be attended to in preference to private calls. So, the message was styled as 'Government call' as the Tahsildar was there. It was found that category also could not get any attention Next it was converted into something like 'express' call. That also met with the same fate. So my point is that every method of urgency was tried, but all to no purpose. Anyhow, by about 12 o'clock in the night the Tahsildar was called over the phone by the Chief Secretary in answer to the phonocom given in the morning. I believe the Chief Secretary will certainly have answered the message without delaying a single moment. What I now want to impress on the attention of the House is that the message from Parur to Trivandrum on an urgent matter took a whole day for its transmission. The phone institution was no avail to us. Within the said time if one had tried he could have got the Express bus from Alwaye on that day which would take him over to Trivandrum wherefrom after delivering the message he would have been in a position to return to Parur before the said 12 o'clock in the night. That was the real position. This simple instance would show that the present arrangement of phone calls is not at all satisfactory. I would however take this opportunity for thanking the Government for the institution of a call office at Parur. But I would point out that the defect which I mentioned lies in the system, not with the institution. If I am asked to suggest a remedy for this, I may say this; I am not unaware of the difficulties of any duplication at a time when the machines, wires and other materials are not at all available. There is indeed difficulty at present of adding more to the existing lines. But a simple method which suggests itself to me is a further classification of the nature of the calls or messages. Urgent calls of an extraordinary character should be given precedence to all other calls. They may be classed as 'extra express' or 'immediate express' or some such super urgency type and charged extra fees. Anyhow, particular preference must be given, above everything else, to extraordinary cases. In some such way, that category of urgency must be served. With these words, I support the cut motion.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I also support the cut motion. What I say is, when we have a telegraph system which is far more intricate than our Travancore telephone system and when we send messages with less difficulty by telegram, is not possible for our Telephone Department, presided over by experienced people and with verp high qualifications and education in the matter, to have better facilities afforded to the people? Is it not possible for the Department or for the Government to pay proper wages for efficient operators to see that work is not delayed. That is what we should do in the name of charity, in the name of the State and more so, in the interests of the public.

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MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Sir, I wish to speak a few words on the delay of transmitting calls over the phone from station to station. Perhaps it may be explained by the Electrical Engineer that delay is caused not by any lack of sense of duty on the part of the subordinates who are posted for duty but due to the heavy traffic in the line. It is possible to say that, because of the one way line calls cannot be booked and transmitted as and when received. My honourable friend Mr. Abraham was attributing this delay to the system of the arrangement of the telephone between station to station. But as for myself I realise that the present arrangement could not be helped, that is to say, the one line system in some parts. Some months back there were two lines between Nagercoil and Trivandrum; now there is only one way line of transmission. Well, Sir, that is instituted obviously under the exigencies of the present conditions and I appreciate that because necessary materials and equipment are not available. But with regard to the delay caused in transmission of calls, I could not tolerate the explanation that may be given by the department. On one occasion it was my experience to go to the Nagercoil public call office and ring up a gentleman at Trivandrum for an urgent matter. The moment it was booked by me, the subordinate in that office wanted to transmit a message to Trivandrum Exchange. The call took about 20 minutes to be registered in Trivandrum Exchange. In other words, the staff on duty here in Trivandrum did not care to enter the call in a register kept there for the purpose for about 20 minutes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The House will now rise and meet again at 12 o'clock the next day.

The House adjourned at 6 P. M.

B. PARAMU,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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